

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /054 W

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R 301655Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6128

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON POUCH BELFAST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJECT: EXTREMIST GROUPS DEFINE POSITIONS AT OPEN CONFERENCE

1. CONFERENCE HELD IN GALWAY OCTOBER 25-27 HAD SPEAKERS FROM BOTH MAJOR EXTREME-REPUBLICAN GROUPS IN REPUBLIC, PLUS AT LEAST ONE LEADING NI EXTREMIST. PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF POSITION CONTAINED INTERESTING DIFFERENCES.

2. TOMAS MACGIOLLA, PRESIDENT OF OFFICIAL SINN FEIN, DEFINED BASIC IRISH STRUGGLE AS HAVING TO DO WITH OWNERSHIP OF WEALTH--WHICH IS FAR FROM TRADITIONAL MYTHOLOGY. HE APPEALED TO PROVISIONAL IRA TO SUSPEND CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE (SEVERAL OTHER SPEAKERS MADE SAME POINT) AND FOR ALL LOYALIST AND REPUBLICAN GROUPS TO JOIN IN OVERTHROWING MIDDLE-CLASS LEADERSHIP.

3. RUAIRI O BRADAIGH, PRESIDENT OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, SAID THAT PROVOS WOULD STOP FIGHTING WHEN BRITISH MADE A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM IRELAND. (THIS MAY REPRESENT A SLIGHT MODERATION OF PROVO CONDITIONS FOR CEASE-FIRE, BUT SPEAKER DID NOT AMPLIFY.) SOCIAL PROGRAM WAS MUCH LESS SPECIFIC, BUT O BRADAIGH HOPED FOR AN EVENTUAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

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IN WHICH KEY INDUSTRIES WOULD BE NATIONALIZED.

4. SAMMY SMYTH OF NORTHERN UDA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IRA CAMPAIGN MUST LEAD TO CIVIL WAR AND TOTAL DESTRUCTION: "THERE IS ONE THING YOU CAN BE SURE OF: "THE DAY THAT MY FAMILY'S BLOOD FLOWS DOWN THE STREETS OF BELFAST, YOURS WILL FLOW DOWN THE STREETS OF DUBLIN, BECAUSE YOU ARE PART-AND PARCEL OF THE CARNAGE IN MY PROVINCE."

5. COMMENT: OFFICIALS NOW SOUND ENTIRELY COMMITTED TO MARXIST LINE, WHICH IS NOT VERY RELEVANT TO CURRENT "TROUBLES," BUT WHICH AT LEAST PROVIDES AN EXCUSE FOR ENDING SECTARIAN VIOLENCE. PROVOS STILL APPEAR ADDICTED TO MINDLESS VIOLENCE AND CONFUSED AS TO ANY SOCIAL AIMS. SMYTH MANAGED TO MAKE EVEN THE PROVOS LOOK RESTRAINED, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER HE WAS REALLY REPRESENTING ANY LARGE GROUP.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS, ANTIIMPERIALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN01548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740310-0688
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974108/aaaaafzj.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTREMIST GROUPS DEFINE POSITIONS AT OPEN CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINT, EI, SINN FEIN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005